IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-28. **(Canceled)**

29. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-implemented system comprising a server associated with a buying group for locally generating price quotes, the buying group comprising two or more buyers buying items as a single buying entity, the server associated with the buyer configured to:

receive a plurality of pricing tools from a plurality of sellers, each pricing tool configured to generate price quotes for at least one corresponding seller;

locally store the pricing tools received from the sellers such that the pricing tools are locally accessible to the server associated with the buying group;

access a request for quote (RFQ) specifying an order comprising quantities of one or more items, the RFQ requesting one or more price quotes for the order;

communicate the RFQ to the locally accessible pricing tools;

using the locally accessible pricing tools received from the sellers, locally generate one or more price quotes for the order;

provide the locally generated price quotes for the order for possible further action by the buying group;

make one or more modifications to the order specified in the RFQ, the modifications being made based on the price quote for the order generated using the locally accessible pricing tools received from the sellers;

using the locally accessible pricing tools received from the sellers, locally generate one or more price quotes for the modified order, provide the locally generated price quotes for the modified order for possible further action by the buyer;

iteratively modify the order and locally generate corresponding price quotes to optimize sourcing for the buying group; and

receive a pricing tool update for a particular locally accessible pricing tool, the pricing tool update reflecting one or more price changes for at least one seller, and update the particular locally accessible pricing tool according to the received pricing tool update.

30. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented system for locally generating price quotes, the system comprising:

~~a network coupled with a plurality of buyer computers and a plurality of sellers;~~

~~a database coupled with each of the plurality of buyer computers; and~~

~~a server coupled with each of the plurality of buyer computers, wherein the server is~~ a plurality of buyer computers coupled with a plurality of sellers via a network, each of the plurality of buyer computers comprising a database and a server, each server configured to:

receive one or more pricing tools from one or more of the plurality of sellers, the one or more pricing tools configured to generate one or more price quotes for one or more corresponding plurality of sellers;

locally store the one or more pricing tools received from one or more of the plurality of sellers in the database coupled with each of the plurality of buyer computers, such that the one or more pricing tools are locally accessible to the server coupled with each of the plurality of buyer computers;

access a request for quote (RFQ) specifying an order comprising quantities of one or more items, the RFQ requesting a price quote for the order;

communicate the RFQ to the locally accessible one or more pricing tools stored in the database;

using the locally accessible one or more pricing tools received from one or more of the plurality of sellers, locally generate, at the corresponding buyer computer, one or more price quotes for the order; and

provide the locally generated one or more price quotes for the order for possible further action by the corresponding buyer computer.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 30, wherein the one or more pricing tools are encrypted to prevent the one or more pricing tools from being used to determine how price quotes are calculated.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 30, wherein a buyer associated with the plurality of buyer computers comprises a buying group comprising two or more buyers buying items as a single buying entity.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 30, wherein the server is further configured to:

receive a pricing tool update from a seller, the pricing tool update reflecting one or more price changes for the seller; and

update the locally accessible one or more pricing tools according to the received pricing tool update.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 30, wherein the server is further configured to:

make one or more modifications to the order specified in the RFQ, the modifications being made based on the price quote for the order generated using the locally accessible one or more pricing tools received from the one or more sellers;

using the locally accessible one or more pricing tools received from the one or more sellers, locally generate a price quote for the modified order, and provide the locally generated price quote for the modified order for possible further action by the corresponding buyer computer.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 34, wherein the one or more modifications to the order are made automatically by the server coupled with each of the plurality of buyer computers based on the locally generated price quote for the order.

36. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 35, wherein the server is configured to iteratively modify the order and locally generate corresponding price quotes to optimize sourcing for the corresponding buyer computer.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 30, wherein the server is configured to locally generate the price quote independent of communication with the one or more sellers subsequent to receiving the one or more pricing tools from the one or more sellers.

38. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-implemented method for locally generating price quotes, comprising:

receiving, by a server, one or more pricing tools from one or more of a plurality of sellers, the one or more pricing tools configured to generate one or more price quotes for one or more corresponding plurality of sellers;

locally storing, by the server, the one or more pricing tools received from one or more of the plurality of sellers in a database coupled with each of a plurality of buyer computers, such that the one or more pricing tools are locally accessible to the server coupled with the plurality of buyer computers;

accessing, by the server, a request for quote (RFQ) specifying an order comprising quantities of one or more items, the RFQ requesting a price quote for the order;

communicating, by the server, the RFQ to the locally accessible one or more pricing tools stored in the database;

using the locally accessible one or more pricing tools received from one or more of the plurality of sellers, locally generating, by the server, at the corresponding buyer computer, one or more price quotes for the order; and

providing, by the server, the locally generated one or more price quotes for the order for possible further action by the corresponding buyer computer.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 38, wherein the one or more pricing tools are encrypted to prevent the one or more pricing tools from being used to determine how price quotes are calculated.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 38, wherein a buyer associated with the plurality of buyer computers comprises a buying group comprising two or more buyers buying items as a single buying entity.

41. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 38, further comprising:

receiving a pricing tool update from a seller, the pricing tool update reflecting one or more price changes for the seller; and

updating the locally accessible one or more pricing tools according to the received pricing tool update.

42. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 38, further comprising:

making one or more modifications to the order specified in the RFQ, the modifications being made based on the price quote for the order generated using the locally accessible one or more pricing tools received from the one or more sellers;

using the locally accessible one or more pricing tools received from the one or more sellers, locally generating a price quote for the modified order, and providing the locally generated price quote for the modified order for possible further action by the corresponding buyer computer.

43. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 42, wherein the one or more modifications to the order are made automatically based on the locally generated price quote for the order.

44. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 43, further comprising iteratively modifying the order and locally generating corresponding price quotes to optimize sourcing for the corresponding buyer computer.

45. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 38, wherein locally generating the price quote comprises generating the price quote independent of communication with the one or more sellers subsequent to receiving the one or more pricing tools from the one or more sellers.

46. **(Previously Presented)** Software associated with a plurality of buyer computers for locally generating price quotes, the software embodied in a computer-readable medium and when executed operable to:

receive one or more pricing tools from one or more of a plurality of sellers, the one or more pricing tools configured to generate one or more price quotes for one or more corresponding plurality of sellers;

locally store the one or more pricing tools received from one or more of the plurality of sellers in a database coupled with the plurality of buyer computers, such that the one or more pricing tools are locally accessible to the software associated with the buyer computer;

access a request for quote (RFQ) specifying an order comprising quantities of one or more items, the RFQ requesting a price quote for the order;

communicate the RFQ to the locally accessible one or more pricing tools stored in the database;

using the locally accessible one or more pricing tools received from one or more of the plurality of sellers, locally generate, at the corresponding buyer computer, one or more price quotes for the order; and

provide the locally generated one or more price quotes for the order for possible further action by the corresponding buyer computer.

47. **(Previously Presented)** The software of Claim 46, wherein the one or more pricing tools are encrypted to prevent the one or more pricing tools from being used to determine how price quotes are calculated.

48. **(Previously Presented)** The software of Claim 46, wherein a buyer associated with the plurality of buyer computers comprises a buying group comprising two or more buyers buying items as a single buying entity.

49. **(Previously Presented)** The software of Claim 46, further operable to:

receive a pricing tool update from a seller, the pricing tool update reflecting one or more price changes for the seller; and

update the locally accessible one or more pricing tools according to the received pricing tool update.

50. **(Previously Presented)** The software of Claim 46, further operable to:

make one or more modifications to the order specified in the RFQ, the modifications being made based on the price quote for the order generated using the locally accessible one or more pricing tools received from the one or more sellers;

using the locally accessible one or more pricing tools received from the one or more sellers, locally generate a price quote for the modified order, and provide the locally generated price quote for the modified order for possible further action by the corresponding buyer computer.

51. **(Previously Presented)** The software of Claim 50, wherein the one or more modifications to the order are made automatically by a server coupled with the plurality of buyer computers based on the locally generated price quote for the order.

52. **(Previously Presented)** The software of Claim 51, operable to iteratively modify the order and locally generate corresponding price quotes to optimize sourcing for the corresponding buyer computer.

53. **(Previously Presented)** The software of Claim 46, operable to locally generate the price quote independent of communication with the one or more sellers subsequent to receiving the one or more pricing tools from the one or more sellers.

54. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-implemented system associated with a plurality of buyer computers for locally generating price quotes, comprising:

means for receiving one or more pricing tools from one or more of a plurality of sellers, the one or more pricing tools configured to generate one or more price quotes for one or more corresponding plurality of sellers;

means for locally storing the one or more pricing tools received from one or more of the plurality of sellers in a database coupled with a plurality of buyer computers, such that the one or more pricing tools are locally accessible to a server coupled with the plurality of buyer computers;

means for accessing a request for quote (RFQ) specifying an order comprising quantities of one or more items, the RFQ requesting a price quote for the order;

means for communicating the RFQ to the locally accessible one or more pricing tools stored in the database;

means for locally generating, at the corresponding buyer computer, one or more price quotes for the order using the locally accessible one or more pricing tools received from one or more of the plurality of sellers; and

means for providing the locally generated one or more price quotes for the order for possible further action by the corresponding buyer computer.